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ABSTRACT

This guide presents a comprehensive framework for the development and provision of outdoor education and adventure programs for people of all abilities, including those who significantly challenge the service delivery system. Chapter 1 provides a rationale for the integration of disabled persons into outdoor education and adventure programs, and discusses benefits of integration for participants with and without disabilities. Chapter 2 describes administrative processes and issues related to organizational goals and mission, funding and logistics, safety and liability, physical accessibility, participant recruitment, staff selection and training, and volunteers. An "Integration Administrative Concerns Matrix" categorizes steps in the administrative process, potential problems, and recommended strategies. Chapter 3 explains how to assess participants' needs, abilities, and interests in order to match participants with appropriate physical environments and with each other. Chapters 4 and 5 provide practical guidelines for promoting healthy group processes, building individuals into a team, and adapting activities and outdoor techniques to participant abilities. Chapter 6 contains six complete outdoor lesson plans involving nature study, recycling, cross-country skiing, kayaking, navigation, and canoeing. Chapter 7 illustrates a systemic approach to inclusion in two exemplary Minnesota programs--Wilderness Inquiry and the Bloomington Park and Recreation Division. Appendices include water safety policies, participant application forms, accessibility survey, and a list of agencies and associations serving disabled persons. Contains 92 references, many photographs, and an index. (SV)

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